

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 043393
ORIGIN SS-15

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S/S:AOTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 043393

EXDIS

FOL RPT NAIROBI 2505 ACTION SECSTATE 25 FEB 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T NAIROBI 2505

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: AMIN DETAINS AMERICANS

REF: STATE 042311

1. AS PART OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR POSSIBLE NEED TO ASSIST AMERICANS BEING DETAINED IN UGANDA BY AMIN, I HAVE FORMED TASK FORCE COMPOSED OF KEY EMBASSY OFFICERS WHICH WILL MEET PERIODICALLY AND ON AN AD HOC BASIS UNTIL RESOLUTION OF CRISIS.

2. IN EVENT AMIN DECIDES TO EXPEL SOME OR ALL OF AMERICAN CITIZENS BY LAND INTO KENYA, WE PLAN TO HAVE RADIO-EQUIPPED

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EMBASSY VEHICLES WITH AMERICAN OFFICERS AT EACH OF TWO LIKELY POINTS OF EXPULSION; I.E., AT MALABA, KENYA (NEAR TORORO, UGANDA), AND AT KENYAN BORDER CROSSING POINT CLOSEST TO BUSIA, UGANDA. THESE TWO VEHICLES WILL LEAVE NAIROBI AT ABOUT DAWN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28 SO AS TO BE IN CONTACT WITH LOCAL KENYAN AUTHORITIES AND BE IN POSITION TO BE ABLE ASSIST ANY AMERICANS WHO MAY BE EXPELLED INTO KENYA. IF NECESSARY, WE CAN ARRANGE FOR

POLICE OR PRIVATELY CHARTERED AIRCRAFT TO TAKE AMERICANS FROM
NEARBY KAKAMEGA AIRSTRIP TO NAIROBI.

3. ANOTHER CONTINGENCY WOULD BE NEED TO EVACUATE AMERICANS
FROM UGANDA BY AIR IF AUTHORIZED BY AMIN. DEPARTMENT MAY,
THEREFORE, WISH TO THINK IN TERMS OF POSSIBLE CIVILIAN AIR
CHARTER SUCH AS WAS RECENTLY USED TO EVACUATE AMERICAN
TOURISTS FROM TANZANIA. ALTERNATIVELY, USS ENTERPRISE, WHICH
LEFT MOMBASA ABOUT 55 HOURS AGO, WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE CAPABILITY
TO EVACUATE AMERICANS FROM UGANDA IF AUTHORIZED BY UGANDAN
AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, I WOULD CAUTION AGAINST ANY DISPLAY OF
MILITARY FORCE WHICH COULD PROVOKE AMIN INTO TAKING HARSHER
ACTION AGAINST AMERICANS THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE CASE.
THEREFORE, IF USG DEEMS IT PRUDENT TO RETURN USS ENTERPRISE TO
POSITION NEAR KENYA COAST, IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT
DECISION BE KEPT SECRET. ON BALANCE, IT WOULD, IN MY VIEW, BE
PREFERABLE TO HAVE NON-MILITARY AIR EVACUATION CAPABILITY ON CALL
IF NEEDED.

4. KENYAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED AND HAVE ASSURED
EMBASSY OF FULLEST POSSIBLE COOPERATION.

LINDSTROM

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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